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Sep 5th 2018

Via ECFS Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

## Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1

Dear FCC,

Its important to keep competition alive in the service provider markets. Electronics and communication go hand in hand, and consumers benefit from the advances Silicon Valley has been driving for decades now. So how is it that in the consumer communications arena, there is still woefully slow connection available for reasonable prices? Beats me, I'm not an economics expert. I can say however, that until I switched my service provider from Comcast to Sonic in San Francisco, my service, and choice was pathetic at very high prices. Now, I enjoy the benefits of fiber optics and the flexibility that app based services bring me. I can choose low priced add ons with no monthly contracts and service fees that balloon monthly payments to keep myself and family connected. It is becoming more and more important that all segments of society be able to take advantage of the power of information. Please, ENCOURAGE COMPETITION in this sector as previous administrations have! This is the power of democracy, and your efforts now will help keep our state and country competitive worldwide. Unfortunately, family members not far from where we live do NOT have such choices as Sonic. AT&T and Comast like providers dominate different areas and offer poor DSL connection over copper as their premium service. This seems pathetic in the most powerful country in the world. For fees that match those that cable broadband providers used to charge nearly two DECADES ago, we have high speed fiber connections to the internet and inexpensive important landline type telephone service. This service is fine for most people and served the US well for over 100 years. Now, cell phones and broadband are all being "bundled" with income sucking contractual agreements that depend on bait and switch services through the mega companies. \$200 a month accompanied by escape clause contracts that attempt to hold customers captive as competition provides better service all the time are putative and strikes directly at the heart of our American democracy and open market philosophies.

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